

ARTICLES

England

OF TREASON,

Exhibited in

PARLIAMENT,

Against

EDWARD Earl of CLARENDON.

My Lords,

Mr. Seymour's Speech to the House of LORDS.

THE Commons Assembled in Parliament, having received Information of divers Treasonable Practises and Designs of a great Peer of this House (Edward Earl of Clarendon) Commanded me to Accuse the said Edward Earl of Clarendon of Treason, and other Crimes and Misdemeanors; And I do here in their Names, and in the Names of the Commons of England, accuse Edward Earl of Clarendon of Treason, and other high Crimes and Misdemeanors. I am further commanded by the House of Commons, to desire your Lordships, That the Earl of Clarendon may forth-with be Sequestred from Parliament, and be committed to safe Custody: They further command me to acquaint your Lordships, That they will in convenient time Exhibit the Articles of the Charge against him,

Resolved, &c.

Novemb. 14. 1667. The Vote of the House of Lords.

That the Lords have not Complied with the Desires of the House of Commons, concerning the Commitment of the Earl of Clarendon, and Sequestering him from Parliament; Because the House of Commons have only Accused him of Treason in general, and have not assigned, or specified any particular Treason.

I.
THAT the Earl of Clarendon hath designed a standing Army to be Raised, and to Govern the Kingdom thereby; Advised the King to Dissolve the present Parliament, so lay aside all thoughts of Parliament for the future, to Govern by Military Power, and to maintain the same by Free-Quarter, and Contribution.

II.
That he hath in hearing of many of his Majesties Subjects, falsely and seditiously said, The King was in his Heart a Papist, Popishly affected; or words to that effect.

III.
That he hath received great sums of Money for passing the Canary Patent; and other illegal Patents, and granted several Injunctions to stop proceedings at Law against them, and other illegal Patents formerly granted.

IV.
That he hath advised and procured divers of his Majesties Subjects to be Imprisoned against Law, in remote Islands, Garrisons, and other Places, thereby to prevent them from the benefit of the Law; and to introduce presidents for Imprisoning of other of his Majesties Subjects, in like manner.

V.
That he hath corruptly sold several Offices, contrary to Law.

VI.
That he hath procured his Majesties Customes to be Farmed at under Rates, knowing the same; and great pretended Debts to be paid by his Majesty; to the payment whereof, his Majesty was not in strictness bound: And hath received great sums of Money for procuring the same.

VII.
That he hath received great sums of Money from the Company of Vintners, or some of them, or their Agents, for exhausting the Prices of Wine, and for freeing them from the payment of legal Penalties, which they had incurred.

VIII.
That he hath in short time gained to himself a far greater Estate then can be imagined to be lawfully gained in so short a time: And contrary to his Oath, hath procured several Grants under the Great Seal from his Majesty to himself and Relations, of several of his Majesties Lands, Hereditaments, and Leases, to the dis-profit of his Majesty.

IX.
That he introduced an Arbitrary Government in his Majesties Forreign Plantations, and hath caused such as Complained thereof, before his Majesty and Council, to be long Imprisoned for so doing.

X.
That he did reject and frustrate a Proposal and Undertaking, approved by his Majesty, for the Preservation of Mevis and St. Christophers, and Reducing the French Plantations to his Majesties obedience, after the Commissions were drawn for that purpose, which was the occasion of such great Losses and Damages in those parts.

XI.
That he advised and effected the Sale of Dunkirk to the French King, being part of his Majesties Dominions, together with the Ammunition, Artillery, and all sorts of Stores there, and for no greater value then the said Ammunition, Artillery, and Stores were worth.

XII.
That the said Earle did unduly cause his Majesties Letters Patents under the Great Seal of England (to one Dr. Cronisher) to be altered, and the Inrolement thereof to be unduly razed.

XIII.
That he hath in an Arbitrary way, examined and drawn into question divers of his Majesties Subjects concerning their Lands, Tenements, Goods and Chattels, and Properties; determined thereof at the Council-Table, and stopped proceedings at Law; and threatened some that pleaded the Statute of 17 Car. 1.

XIV.
That he had caused Quo Warranto's to be issued out against most of the Corporations of England by Act of Parliament, to the intent he might receive great sums of Money from them for Renewing their Charters; which when they complied withal, he caused the said Quo Warranto's to be discharged, and prosecution thereon to cease.

XV.
That he procured the Bills of Settlement for Ireland, and received great sums of Money for the same, in a most corrupt and unlawful manner.

XVI.
That he hath Deluded and Betrayed his Majesty, and the Nation, in all Forreign Treaties and Negotiations, relating to the late War.

XVII.
That he was a principal Author of that fatal Counsel of Dividing the Fleet, about 7th Nov. 1666.